

Message Text

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65

ACTION IO-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 EA-07 NEA-10 SAJ-01 ACDA-05

NRC-05 OES-03 SSO-00 NSCE-00 USIE-00 INRE-00 ERDA-05

CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05

PA-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15 /099 W

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FM USMISSION USUN NY

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1951

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L USUN 4187

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, PARM, UN, UR

SUBJECT: INITIAL REACTION TO SOVIET NUCLEAR TEST BAN PROPOSAL

REF: MOSCOW'S 12947

1. ONCE AGAIN SOVIETS HAVE TABLED WITHOUT PRIOR SIGNIFICANT CONSULTATION A NEW INITIATIVE THAT THEY WILL CALL "MAJOR". ONCE AGAIN THEIR ANNUAL INITIATIVE IS ESSENTIALLY A PROPAGANDA MOVE.

THE SOVIETS MUST BE PERFECTLY AWARE THAT ALTHOUGH BANNING NUCLEAR TESTS EQUALS MOTHERHOOD, WE CANNOT GO ALONG ON THEIR TERMS.

2. PERHAPS FOR THE FIRST TIME, WE ARE NOT THE PRIMARY TARGETS OF THE ANNUAL SOVIET PROPAGANDA INITIATIVE. THE CHINESE AND TO A LESSER DEGREE THE FRENCH AND THE INDIANS, ARE UNDER THE GUN. PARTICULARLY IF WE INVOLVE OURSELVES ONLY MINIMALLY, THE SOVIET PROPOSAL WILL PRESENT A PAINFUL CHOICE FOR THOSE THIRD WORLD STATES AND OTHERS WHO HAVE ATTEMPTED TO CARRY SOVIET WATER ON ONE SHOULDER AND CHINESE WATER ON THE OTHER.

3. FROM NEW YORK IT WOULD SEEM DESIRABLE TO DIGNIFY THE SOVIET
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PROPOSAL WITH THE LEAST POSSIBLE US REACTION. WE SEE LITTLE REASON

TO KEEP THE PROPOSAL "UNDER STUDY" VERY LONG BEFORE STATING
PUBLICLY THAT THE PROPOSAL CONTAINS LITTLE OR NOTHING THAT IS
NEW AND THAT WE CANNOT SUPPORT IT FOR REASONS THAT ARE WELL
KNOWN, INCLUDING OUR DIFFERENCES ON VERIFICATION.
MOYNIHAN

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Message Attributes

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